

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



For Immediate Release: July 29, 2004
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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

*** Public Notice ***

Workers at Elkhart Foundry & Machine Co. receive federal assistance

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of Elkhart Foundry & Machine Co., Inc., have qualified for federal Trade Adjustment Assistance.

Administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD), the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

Located in the city of Elkhart, the facility manufactures gray and ductile iron castings used in the machine tools, construction, automotive, elevator, metal forming and cutting, printing, and foundry industries.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and it must be approved before benefits can be released. A petition was jointly filed by a company official and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Local #90, on May 26, 2004.

The USDOL investigation determined that the loss of jobs at the facility was directly related to increased imports of similar products. With the ruling, any employee who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after May 25, 2003 through two years from the date of certification is eligible to apply for assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for alternative trade adjustment assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers A.F. Dormeyer, Inc. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits, or a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Information sessions for workers on how to apply for TAA are currently being planned and will be announced at a later date. Eligible parties may also contact Sandra Moehling at the Elkhart WorkOne at 574/ 295-0105, or any WorkOne Center for more information.

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